

From: Gene Risoldi
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Some quick points about this issue:

1. Microsoft's Windows OS is the only US made product I have seen in every country in my travels throughout Europe, S. America and Asia. As a business man, I find it incredible that the only worldwide challenger that could hurt this company in the long run is our own government.

2. I have been involved in companies who have been charged with illegal activities with regard to Sherman's anti-trust laws. I believe that if someone has done something illegally, they should be charged, prosecuted by our laws and pay the claim. I also believe that that same law suggests that we as consumers must have been financially damaged in some way for the law to be invoked. I build computers and have owned Apple products, worked with WARP and used Netscape as my browser. When Microsoft added thier browser to their OS, I couldn't have been happier, and it didn't cost me a cent. In fact, it saved me \$49.99 in upgrades everytime Netscape needed some new revenue. Bottom line, Microsoft, because of their mass, their rsearch and their marketing prowess kicked over their competition in favor of the ultimate consumer. I call that smart business and instead of congratulating them, our government, whose members have proven they can't run a damn thing effeciently or well, claims they know how to fix it. How, by breaking the company into little pieces. These are the same people whose number one responsibility is to provide for the common defense...last time I looked, 3,000 people died and the damages were in the \$90 billion dollar range? And they want to tell anyone how to operate? I find it difficult to not vomit.

3. Now we have the states suing Microsoft. How in merciful heaven were they damaged? Oh, I know their constituents were damaged. Well, what about the local county and city governments? Don't they have "constituents" and why aren't they involved?

4. Let's talk about the real damage this government has caused those of us who not only are happy with Microsofts activities but bought their stock when we saw that we finally had a dominating worldwide company in the US who could kick some foreign butt. I have just a 1,000 shares, which were once at \$120 and after the government's action, now hovering around \$65. Do you in government know how many browsers I can buy for the \$55,000 loss your actions cost me personally?

5. Finally, if I were Bill Gates, I say piss on the American justice system and everything it stands for and move my company, the whole kit and caboodle to let's see, how about China? I think they would welcome them. And take

how many?, 80,000 directly employed jobs with them plus another what ?, 150,000 supplier jobs. If they made that announcement, I'd buy more stock!

6. However, don't you misunderstand me. I love America, and I know that capitalism and the free enterprise system is unequalled when it comes to producing wealth and creating jobs. I retired at 55, not because I won Dick Gephardt's life's lottery, which really upsets the hell out of me everytime I think about his comment, but because I worked my rearend off; spent 65% of my life away from my wife, our kids and our families, so we could take full advantage of the opportunities we were presented within our system. And I have traveled and worked within other countries enough to know how fortunate we all are in America.

7. Finally, I will turn 60 next week and I wish you to know that those of us who are a little older and a little wiser understand that there are those who create wealth and those who wish to take it away and give it to themselves or to those who will give them the power to get it and pass it around. But there is one constant that I have learned and I hope my fellow countrymen pick up on someday soon. Simply, There is only so much money in the system. There are those among us who for whatever reason, will do what it takes to amass as much a share as we can and for most of us, to do so in legal and moral ways. The idea that government is going to save us money or make us money is smoke and mirrors because it begins and ends as OUR money. If there is a cost, we will pay for it. I think about the tobacco settlement and when I think about how much of it went to "government beaurocrats" to pay the health expenses or to educate kids not to smoke, and I read about what programs it really funded, I can only hope that the rest of the citizens of this country wake up and comprehend how corrupt we have allowed our system to become.

8. And finally, how can it be that when we have a company who truly was responsible for the universal application and use of computers and the prolific results of that use, (which history will soon realize was equal to if not more remarkable than the "industrial age") that we want to tear them apart because they are the best at what they do.

I leave you with what I started this memo about. In our governing system, if someone can be proven to have done something illegally, throw the book at them. But as a governing body, stay the hell out of decisions about running businesses. America can only handle so much incompetence before we really get into trouble.

Given sincerely as an opinion, but with plenty enough historical fact to make my case.

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